

J-PRISM II HIGHLIGHTS

Fiji



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (J-PRISM II)

J-PRISM II is the five-and-a-half-year Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (2017-2022), assisting nine member countries (Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) in the Pacific Region in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The project was commenced in February 2017, following the previous phase from 2011 to 2016.

Development of Master Plans for Waste Management for All Municipalities

Fiji has 13 local governments across the country, which are equivalent to Japanese city or town municipalities. There are 10 municipalities on the main large island, 2 on the other large island and 1 in one of the remote islands. As of 2018, no municipalities except Suva City, the capital city of Fiji, had developed municipal waste management plans (Nadi and Lautoka developed it before); therefore J-PRISM II has been assisting all municipalities in developing their plans. The population living within the area of local governments is around 30% of the total population, according to 2007 statistics.

Reorganization of the Scope of Responsibilities of National and Local Governments

In July 2018, amendments were made to the Local Government Act and the Health Act. This greatly expanded the scope of responsibility of local governments. Until then, local governments were responsible only within their municipal boundaries, but with these amendments,

local governments now provide public services, including sanitation services, to peri-urban areas, which were previously the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and rural local authorities. This is a significant development in Fiji, and waste management plans need to be developed accordingly.

Information Collection at All Municipal Councils

Waste management services for citizens are governed by the Local Government Act and are provided under the jurisdiction of the Department of Local Government (DLG) within the Ministry of Local Government. As already mentioned, the Act was amended in 2018 to give local governments overall responsibility for the disposal of waste generated even outside their administrative areas. As a result, the role of DLG in waste management has expanded to an unprecedented extent. In such a context, DLG, in collaboration with J-PRISM II, visited all 13 local governments to conduct a survey to understand the waste management situation in Fiji, with the aim of gathering basic information on waste management across the country. Noteworthy points with regard to waste management in the major municipalities at the time of the survey (2019) were as follows.



Site visit (Nausori Town Council)

Levuka

Even prior to the 2018 amendments to the Local Government Act, Levuka Town Council had been collecting waste fees and providing waste management services outside its administrative area. This is an initiative that should be used for reference to ensure the implementation of these amendments.

Sigatoka

Prior to the amendment of the Local Government Act, waste collection services were outsourced to private licensed companies. This is an example of how a local government is able to provide waste collection services in areas where it would have been difficult to do so on its own due to lack of funds and human resources, although residents are required to pay a fee to the contractors.

Nadi

The town council is expanding its administrative area as part of its urban planning. Securing financial resources is very important in waste management, and many local governments try to finance waste management operations with local taxes. Therefore, initiatives such as this, which physically increase the number of taxpayers, are noteworthy.

Lautoka

Following the revision of the Local Government Act, an initiative was established to outsource some waste collection beyond municipal boundaries to the private sector in order to deal with the responsibility for waste disposal outside the administrative area. By selecting private companies to provide outsourced services through a bidding

system, the municipality expects to improve quality and develop a low-cost collection service.

Formulation of Waste Management Master Plans

First, DLG and J-PRISM II organized a workshop in September 2019 with the aim of helping the 13 local governments to develop individual waste management master plans. During the workshop, J-PRISM II experts proposed and explained a template (document format) for the development of waste management plans to the stakeholders. The participants agreed that each local government should prepare its waste management plan in accordance with this template. At the workshop, they also discussed the expansion of responsibilities and the current status of waste management after the amendment of the Local Government Act. Thus, a valuable opportunity to share these topics among key stakeholders, including DLG, Department of Environment (DOE) and local governments was provided.

After the workshop, each local council prepared its waste management master plan, according to the designated template. Seven councils prepared and submitted their draft master plans to DLG by March 2020, and the remaining six councils submitted their draft plans by February 2021.

Workshop on Expansion of Solid Waste Collection Services in Rural Areas

A workshop on expansion of solid waste collection services in rural areas was organized online in May 2021 in order to enable local governments to report their current situations and discuss problems.

Implementation of Waste Management Plans

J-PRISM II supports local governments in developing their waste management plans. At the same time, DLG helps local governments to establish a system for monitoring their waste management activities to ensure that the waste management plans are effective. As local governments prepare and implement their waste management plans, J-PRISM II is providing technical assistance to improve the overall waste management capacity in Fiji.



Waste management master plan workshop (September 2019)

Disaster Waste Management (DWM)

Regional Consultation Workshop in Samoa, Oct. 2018

At the stakeholders' consultation workshop for development of the regional DWM guideline, held in Samoa, Fiji was represented by officials of the DOE and National Disaster Management Office. In addition, an official from Lautoka City Council also attended as the Chair of the Regional DWM Technical Committee, which was formed during the second Clean Pacific Roundtable in 2018. This consultation workshop was coordinated and conducted by J-PRISM II in collaboration with SPREP and the team that developed the Disaster Waste Management Guideline for Asia and the Pacific. A joint presentation delivered during the workshop provided baseline information for developing the regional

DWM guideline. The workshop also provided information on how to develop a national DWM contingency plan. Fiji, like other participating countries, discussed and developed a draft plan during the workshop.

Assistance following Tropical Cyclone Harold in 2020

Through the JICA Fiji Office in Suva, J-PRISM II provided funding support to collect and dispose of the waste generated by Tropical Cyclone Harold, which affected Vanuatu, Tonga, and Fiji in April 2020. The focus was placed on the Nasinu area. The assistance covered the hire of trucks and a loader to collect the piles of waste and transport them for final disposal at the Naboro Landfill.

^{*1} <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/110165.pdf>



About Us: J-PRISM II in Fiji

In Fiji, day-to-day activities have been conducted in line with the project framework below in close cooperation with the counterpart agencies:

- Department of Local Government (DLG)
- Department of Environment (DOE)

Country Activities in Fiji

Purpose	Solid waste is managed appropriately based on the National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy 2018-2028.
Output 1	By the initiative of Department of Local Government, Evidence-based policy is promoted based on 3R concept.
Output 2	Pilot study(s) for 3R + Return program are implemented.

All the member countries are also assisted under the regional project framework to enhance the regional monitoring mechanism, south-to-south cooperation, disaster waste management, and the 3R+Return system in the region.

Regional Activities including Fiji

- Output1: Monitoring mechanism for solid waste management in line with Cleaner Pacific 2025 is strengthened
- Output2: Regional cooperation is organized and promoted by utilizing regional human resource and sharing good practices in the region
- Output3: Regional capacity of disaster waste management is strengthened
- Output4: Practical and sustainable 3R+Return system is examined

Contact Us:

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